SR-71 File

WORKING PAPER

27 September 1967

1. Advantages of the currently deployed 115-A Camera System and the probable future deployment of the 118-A Camera System are rather obvious and stem primarily from the vast experience gained by NPIC through the extensive testing programs, evaluations and exposures to these systems prior to their becoming operational.

To date, little is known of the exploitation problems which might be encountered with the deployment of the SR-71 as a replacement for the OXCART vehicle.

The SR-71 carries 5 cameras comprising 3 photographic systems; only 2 of these systems will be used for comparative purposes as the small scale of the terrain objective camera (approx. 1:170,000 at operational altitudes) limits its use primarily as a tracker system.

2. A comparison of the technical objective and operational objective camera systems in the SR-71 with the 115-A and 118-A Camera Systems in the OXCART reveals:

a. 115-A camera system provides approximately 1.5 times the ground area coverage as that provided by the Operational Objective Camera System in the SR-71 and at a better scale (1:53,000 vs 1:77,000 at NADIR).

b. 118-A Camera System would provide 4 times the ground area coverage as the Technical Intelligence Camera System in the SR-71 and at the same scale.

Approved by PAG

3. Exploitation times involved would probably be longer due to the multisensor capability and the possibility of a given target being imaged on all 3 photographic systems in the SR-71. Until such time as a full test mission can be utilized in an "Operational Readiness Test" exercise, this variance in time would be pure speculation.